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Immediate Release

Contact: Mayor Ray Bagshaw
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ACCREDITATION TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT THE EDGEWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Edgewood, Florida: A team of assessors from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) will arrive April 19, 2016 to examine all aspects of the Edgewood Police Department's policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services, Chief of Police Chris Francisco announced today. The Edgewood Police Department has to comply with approximately 260 standards in order to receive accredited status. Many of the standards are critical to life, health and safety issues.

As part of the on-site assessment, department members and the general public are invited to offer comments to the assessment team. Comments must be in writing and must address the department's ability to comply with CFA standards. A copy of the standards is available at the Edgewood Police Department, 5565 S. Orange Ave., Edgewood, Florida 32809 (Phone # 407-851-2820).

For more information regarding CFA, or for persons wishing to offer written comments about the Edgewood Police Department's ability to meet the standards of accreditation, please write to: CFA, P.O. Box 1489, Tallahassee, Florida 32302, or e-mail to: info@flaccreditation.org.

The Accreditation Manager for the Edgewood Police Department is Shannon Patterson. She said the assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar departments. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, and visit offices and other places where compliance can be witnessed. The CFA Assessment Team Leader is Michael Somberg (retired). Other team members are: Lieutenant Chris Welch from the Florida Department of Financial Services Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations and Lieutenant Mike Sheelar from the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office.

Once the Commission's assessors complete their review of the department, they report back to the full Commission, which will then decide if the department is to receive accredited status. The Edgewood Police Department's accreditation is for 3 years. Verification by the team that the Edgewood Police Department meets the Commission's standards is part of a voluntary process to gain and maintain accreditation – a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence, stated Chris Francisco.